

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Inventory

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

FEB 22 1988

Page

1 of 3

NAME: Green Mountain Lookout

LOCATION: Mt. Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest; Congressional District 2, Darrington Ranger District, Darrington, Washington (53), Snohomish County (061).

ADDRESS: USDA Forest Service
Mt. Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest
1022 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

CLASSIFICATION/CATEGORY: Building

DESCRIPTION:

Condition

☒ Good/fair ☒ Altered ☒ Original Site

Green Mountain Lookout is situated in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area near the western boundary and north of the Suiattle River. Perched on the northern end of a rocky ridgetop (elevation +5,957 feet), the Lookout is accessed by a four mile long Forest Service trail which steeply transverses stands of dense fir and hemlock, vast alpine meadows and a subalpine basin area. The Lookout commands a panoramic 360 degree view over the Suiattle River Valley toward Glacier Peak to the south and Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan to the north.

This one-story, single room, 14 x 14 feet cabin is wood-frame construction built according to standard Forest Service Lookout House plans from c. 1930. The floor framing system is supported on and anchored to a pinnacle of rock outcroppings and mortared rock. A guy anchorage system is also utilized to provide additional stability against severe wind and snow loads. The standard cabin is surrounded by a reconstructed catwalk and the pyramidal roof is covered entirely by cedar shingles. The roof and some walls were apparently reconstructed "in kind" due to severe storm damage c. 1950. Exterior walls are composed of nine-light inward hinged sash with dropped siding below. Temporary plywood shutters which utilize original hinge and steel rod support hardware are currently in use, although deteriorated original shutters remain on the site. The original panel door with nine-lights above remains in place. The greatest alteration to the original lookout is the current catwalk and supports which were reconstructed (c. 1984) as an emergency measure due to severe winter storm damage. Although similar, the reconstruction was not based on original architectural details. A "user group" is currently being organized with the intention of complete reconstruction of the shutters and catwalk according to original architectural details. Intact interior finishes include dropped siding at walls and beaded board on ceiling and standard 1 x 4 fir flooring. The interior also exhibits typical simply constructed furnishings which include standard firefinder and stand, table, built-in cabinets and shelves, lightning stool and a manufactured cast iron stove.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2 of 3

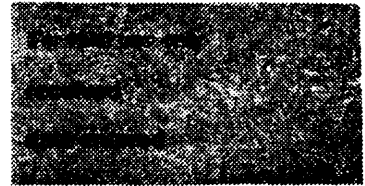
SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific Dates: 1933 (roof reconstruction, c. 1950)Builder/Architect: Constructed per standard Forest Service Plan L-4 1930 (revised 1932).
Builder not known. Roof reconstruction by Rod O'Connor and Dan Beighle.History

Green Mountain was first used for fire lookout purposes in 1926. At that time, the lookout man, Hubert Wilson, Suiattle-Finney District Assistant, lived out of a tent in the meadow below and would hike up with only a compass to spot lightning strikes. John E. Schwartz served as the lookout during the fire season of 1928. He stated, "There were no permanent improvements at the lookout site. An emergency ground wire telephone line was strung on trees and bushes along the trail to the summit. My living quarters was a small 8 x 10 wall tent with a fly extending out in front. I cooked over a campfire using an old World War I army mess kit. The camp was situated on the ridge among a small group of subalpine firs near the point where the trail leaves the ridge and descends to the basin south of the peak. A small firefinder was positioned on the rock at the summit. There was no shelter here and since I had no material with which to construct even a temporary one it was necessary to spend long hours each day sitting on a rock in the sun."

Green Mountain Lookout was reportedly constructed in 1933 and appears to have been built according to the 1932 revised plan for standard L-4 Lookout Houses. The building exhibits transitional fenestration typical of the earlier gable roof style L-4 plan and may be the oldest remaining lookout on the Forest to have been constructed with the revised hipped-roof configuration. Two other Lookouts were reported to have been constructed that year, one of which is still standing, Sourdough Mountain Lookout, although now under National Park Service jurisdiction. No record remains regarding who specifically constructed Green Mountain, although a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established at the Darrington Ranger Station that year, and it seems likely that CCC enrollees may have been part of the construction crew.

The Lookout was selected for use during World War II as a U.S. Army aircraft warning site to be staffed year-round, 24-hours-a-day. This proved to be extremely difficult due to weather conditions and the site was not used after the first year. The building was severely damaged by heavy snowfall in 1949-50 and required extensive repair and reconstruction as a result. Rod O'Connor and Dan Beighle of Bellingham were contracted to carry out the work. Mr. O'Connor stated that many roof rafters were twisted and broken and that it was necessary to reconstruct the roof. O'Connor also stated that the new roof was reconstructed to match the original hipped roof. Portions of walls were also dismantled and reconstructed in kind. Windows, shutters and the door were repaired and reinstalled. Since its original construction, the Lookout has continued to be used, although now on a volunteer basis, for visitor information rather than fire detection and suppression purposes. On-going exposure to severe weather conditions, deferred general maintenance and relatively easy accessibility to vandalism are factors related to the present physical condition. A user group is presently being organized and has begun to address deferred maintenance problems with the intention of repairing and restoring deteriorated or missing historic building fabric.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3 of 3

Statement of Significance

Green Mountain Lookout is an intact example of a somewhat transitional Plan L-4 Lookout House which exhibits both the fenestration typical of the earlier L-4 gable roof ("grange hall") style lookouts and the hipped-roof configuration of the revised 1932 Plan L-4. One of the oldest remaining fire lookouts on the Forest to have been constructed with the revised hipped-roof configuration, it represents an essential part of a fire detection and suppression system which functioned for over 50 years to protect and conserve our timber resources. This Lookout also represents a uniquely functional building type which was specifically designed for construction in such isolated and challenging environments as Green Mountain. Green Mountain Lookout also possesses historical associations with domestic defense during World War II due to its role as part of the U.S. Army Aircraft Warning Service.

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

UTM Reference:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	10	630740	5350010

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Green Mountain Lookout (Building #4075) is located in a portion of SW1/4 of NE1/4, Section 3, T.32N, R.12E, Willamette Meridian. Proposed nomination to include lookout house, related rock foundations, guy anchorage system, lightning protection system and immediate access trail within a 50 foot radius of the center of the Lookout per Green Trails map CASCADE PASS, WASH - NO 80.